

**Town Meeting Coordinating Committee Meeting  
Minutes from February 11, 2009**

1. **Call to Order:** This meeting began at 5:05pm. Present at the beginning of the meeting were: Carol Gray, Peggy Roberts, Judy Simpson, Nonny Burack, and Mary Streeter. Harry Brooks arrived late. Absent: Dorwenda Bynum-Lewis.
2. **Minutes of February 4:** Nonny moved and Judy seconded that we adopt the minutes of February 4, 2009 after edits. The vote to approve the minutes was unanimous.
3. **Change of Reservation for Town Room to include 6:30p.m. Orientation before Warrant Review:** Nonny did this. Nonny will let Harrison Gregg know that the orientation will begin at 6:30pm.
4. **Warrant Preparation:** Harry will talk to Larry Shaffer to request that TMCC be added to the list of all those to be notified about meetings to plan Town Meeting.
5. **Petition Zoning Articles:** Harry will check to find out if there were any zoning petition articles filed before our next meeting.
6. **Stacker:** Carol moved, and Harry seconded, that Mary be elected 'stacker' since Aaron Hayden had been stacker before he resigned from the committee. The vote was unanimous (with Mary abstaining) to make Mary the stacker.
7. **Order of Town Budget Articles:** Judy talked to Stephanie O'Keeffe about the letter regarding ordering of Town Meeting budget articles. Stephanie thought the idea sounded fine, but wanted to find out who sets the current order. Stephanie later informed Judy that TMCC should contact the Moderator and the Finance Committee.
8. **Another Suggestion About Town Meeting:** Judy suggested each town department present its own budget rather than a member of the Finance Committee. Carol moved that a letter be sent to the Select Board requesting that time saving-measures be adopted, including the following points: 1) any presentations contemplated before discussion of particular articles (such as presentations by school superintendent and the Finance Committee) be moved from Town Meeting hours to the Warrant Review; 2) heads of town departments present their own budgets with the Select Board, Finance Committee and any other relevant boards responding within the 3 minute time limit. Harry seconded the motion. There was a discussion about increasing education by encouraging press releases and information in the Town Meeting packets by relevant committees. Nonny and Judy agreed to be on a subcommittee to draft such a letter. Nonny suggested another time-saver could be that we ask people not to read aloud anything that is already in writing. Carol suggested we just keep all people to a time limit and let them deal with their time in whatever way they choose, whether they speak with notes or read.
9. **Information Forum:** Carol and Harry reported the various ideas discussed by their subcommittee regarding the topic for the forum. Carol reported that ultimately the subcommittee recommends a forum focusing on the defunding of the human services budget while switching to the funding mechanism of the CDBG grants. Peggy talked about how it might be helpful to have a broader topic of the effect of the economy on all budgets. Carol said she thought it was important to focus on the human services topic in particular because the budget discussion was whether to completely defund human services and change the funding to CDBG. This change means that Town Meeting will need a lot of education on this topic. Mary discussed how someone from the state had been

asked by Pelham in Colonial times whether Pelham had the right to eliminate support for human services. The state official told Pelham that towns have a legal duty to take care of their own poor. Carol moved, and Harry seconded, that the topic of the forum be "How to fund human services?" The motion passed unanimously. The forum had been scheduled for April 16, 7pm-9pm at ACTV, but Harry will check with ACTV to see whether we could instead have the forum on April 14 so as not to conflict with the last night of Passover. Harry will confirm with ACTV that the forum will be live; he will ask that there be a line on the bottom of the screen informing people of the cell phone number to call in with questions.

- 10. Reminder Stickers for Packet Envelopes:** Dorwenda sent a message that she will print the labels. Mary will email Dorwenda to see if Dorwenda could email her an eye-catching design for the labels. We will figure out at a later meeting what substantive information to put on the labels.
- 11. Precinct Meetings:** Mary gave an update on precinct meetings: Harry will be organizing his precinct's meeting. Carol & Mary will be organizing the precinct 7 & 8 meeting. Howard Ewert cannot host his precinct meeting so a new location is being sought. There was discussion of the possibility of using the Bangs Center, Police Station, or the Library for that meeting.
- 12. Town Meeting Display:** Judy will be meeting with the Tevis Kimball, Jones Library archivist to discuss old Town Meeting pictures.
- 13. Information for packets:** Some things to include are: the childcare announcement, how to run for TMCC and the announcement about the mentoring program. Members were asked to bring other suggestions to the next meeting.
- 14. TMCC's webpage on the town website:** Mary would like feedback and suggestions about the TMCC-related pages on the town website.
- 15. Adjournment:** Carol moved and Nonny seconded that we adjourn the meeting. The vote was unanimous to adjourn. The meeting adjourned at 6:29pm.

**Documents Distributed at the meeting:**

1. Agenda for today's meeting.
2. Minutes from February 4, 2009.
3. 3 Charts from Judy: 1) Precincts represented on the Finance Committee from 1987-2007; 2) Chart 2: Turnover in the Finance Committee from 1987-2007; 3) Finance Committee Chairs (1972-2007).

Carol Gray, Secretary